MMR_0059 Willis Ehlert

A.P.'s Newest MMR No. 59

Willis J. Ehlert, MMR #59
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Bill Ehlert has been interested in model building all his life but he really got hooked on model railroading about ten years ago when he bought an issue of MR that described the building of a layout. What really gave him the push to go ahead was his attending a South Central Wisconsin Division Open House where he met others involved in the hobby.

BILL EHLERT, MMR #59

A former English teacher, Bill is now an Audiovisual Consultant at a Madison high school. He is married and has one daughter and three sons. The youngest, Wayne, 13, is an avid N scaler with his own layout that he has built on his own. Included are many scratchbuilt structures.

In the past ten years, Bill has become totally involved in NMRA activities. In his Division he has served as Clinic Planning Chairman, Paymaster, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. He also has been co-chairman of a Division-sponsored Regional Convention and chairman of one of the Division's Annual Open houses which often attract over 5,000 persons.

At the Regional level, he has been a director-at-large, and served a term as Midwest Region President. At the present time he is the Region AP Chairman.

Bill's **Wisconsin and Northern RR** is a 5'x11' HO layout of a common carrier line built in Northern Wisconsin between 1906 and 1921. Features of the layout are many scratchbuilt cars and structures including several replicas of the yellow and white stations of the **W&N RR** before it became part of the Soo Line in 1921. Photos and measurements of the stations before they were torn down were used to build the models. The completely scenicked layout is done with hard shell and colored with acrylics and dry paint powder. His NMRA Tape-Slide Clinic #28—**Coloring Scenery**—is based on his methods.

In the past year Bill has instituted the paper clip card order system which has resulted in a random train-make-up as the daily schedule of way freights, through freights and passenger runs is followed.

While the layout is "finished," Bill considers it a workshop for modeling with many anticipated changes to correct early mistakes and other changes to conform to the prototype **Wisconsin and Northern RR.**

"Model railroading has not only given me personal pleasure in accomplishment on a layout, but more so, it has given me the opportunity to meet people of all ages and professions on a basis for understanding and friendship. I owe the NMRA a great debt for providing opportunities through the activities and conventions on the Divisional, Regional and National levels to get to know people who have become good friends. I feel that the AP program is one that has as its ultimate aim that of making better modelers of those who choose to participate. It has helped me."